

Connecting NH – Answers to Submitted Questions

Q. Are we supposed to work with each provider to submit a solution or is the town supposed to submit one to apply for these funds?

A. Either approach is acceptable.

Q. Assuming that a provider only agrees to pay for a certain distance from a public road to a residence for a connection, can we use these funds to cover the connection costs to houses that may be further away from the public way? For example, some houses are 1/4 mile or more down a private way. If the ISP would not normally pay for that distance, can we use these funds to do so?

A. The Broadband Expansion project is designed to bring 25/3 Mbps internet accessibility to as many Unserved Properties as possible. Individual property connections will be the responsibility of the property owner working directly with the provider.

Q. The RFP states that projects must be completed by 12/15/2020, that the intention is to connect as many NH families as possible, and that funds will be provided *after completion* of construction. Could you please clarify what “completion” means?

A. For the purposes of this RFP, “complete” means the network is ready and available to connect end users.

Q. The 2nd sentence of this RFP doesn't make sense. "are be eligible" Are planned and permitted projects eligible or not?

A. Planned and permitted projects that have not commenced construction are eligible to receive funding.

Q. I am curious whether attention is given to those parts of the state and lower served regions will get priority in the service upgrades?

A. No region will be given priority during evaluation. Proposals will be evaluated based upon the requirements and criteria contained in the RFP and from applying the weighting set forth in RFP Section 5.0.

Q. Is there a means for local communities to weigh in on proposals, and/or support?

A. Municipalities can submit their own proposals. There is no separate mechanism for community input in the procurement process. The CARES Act funds available for this RFP are extremely time-limited in nature.

Q. In section 3.1.2 does “currently without 25/3 Mbps service” refer to the hypothetically “available” broadband at that address? Or the speeds actually experienced? Or the bandwidth being paid for?

A. Properties “currently without 25/3 Mbps service” refers to properties without available 25/3 Mbps capacity.